

Twelfth Night abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 1

Contrition

Situation: At the moment the shackled-by-officers Antonio is led onto the stage, Viola, with Orsino standing nearby, comes to Antonio's defense, kind and generous soul that she is. Antonio did for sure come to her defense at a time when she needed some help, even though he did impulsively offer his help thinking she was her brother. Antonio offers a good defense of his character.

FIRST OFFICER: Orsino, this is he that did the Tiger board when your young nephew Titus lost his leg. Here in the streets in private brabble did we apprehend him.

VIOLA: He did me kindness, sir.

ORSINO: Notable pirate, what foolish boldness brought thee to thine enemies?

Antonio to Orsino

Antonio never yet was a thief
Though I doth confess, based on sound belief,
Orsino's enemy. I did redeem
That most ingrateful boy there by your side,
Past hope he was, from a sea that did teem
Rudely with enraged foam; there had he died
Had not I in dedication, without
Retention, given life back to him. Doubt
Not I, when I, exposed to grave danger
In this most adverse town, drew to defend
Him beset. When I taken, did occur
To him to know me not. He, to a friend
Loyal to him for these twenty years, doth sink
To this, in the time it takes me to blink.

VIOLA: How can this be?

ORSINO TO ANTONIO: When came he to this town?

ANTONIO: Today, my lord.